AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for providing access to data files stored in a data repository comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a data file from a requester;

determining if said requester is authorized to access said requested data file;

displaying at least one available data format selected from a list of stored data formats, said at least one available data format selectable by said requester;

translating the requested data file from a stored data format into a requester-selected data format; and

making said translated data file accessible to said requester if it is determined that said requester is authorized;

wherein said repository resides behind a secure firewall the method further comprising the steps of:

providing an access control system outside of said firewall for receiving said request for said data file;

determining via said access control system if the requested data file is stored in the repository;

passing said request to said repository if said requester is authorized and said requested data file is stored in said repository;

receiving said request at a staging database within said firewall;

determining based on said received request which of said stored data formats is to be used to perform said translating into said requested data format;

using the results of said determination to retrieve the data file having the determined format from said repository; and

providing said translated data file from said repository to said staging database;

wherein said access control system includes a response repository and

wherein said translated data file is transferred from said staging database to said response repository and retained at the response repository in response to said request.

Claims 2-18. (canceled)

Claim 19. (original) A method according to claim 18 wherein said translated data file is retained at said response repository for a predetermined time period.

Claim 20. (original) A method according to claim 19 wherein said translated data file is accessible from said response repository by any authorized requester.

Claims 21-22 (canceled).

Claim 23. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by a digital processing apparatus and tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the digital processing apparatus to perform method steps for providing access to data files stored in a data repository, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a data file from a requester;

determining if said requester is authorized to access said requested data file;

displaying at least one available data format selected from a list of stored data formats, said at least one available data format selectable by said requester;

translating the requested data file from a stored data format into a requester-selected data format; and

making said translated data file accessible to said requester if it is determined that said requester is authorized;

wherein said repository resides behind a secure firewall the method further comprising the steps of:

providing an access control system outside of said firewall for receiving said

request for said data file;

determining via said access control system if the requested data file is stored in the repository;

passing said request to said repository if said requester is authorized and said requested data file is stored in said repository;

receiving said request at a staging database within said firewall;

determining based on said received request which of said stored data formats is to be used to perform said translating into said requested data format;

using the results of said determination to retrieve the data file having the determined format from said repository; and

providing said translated data file from said repository to said staging database;

wherein said access control system includes a response repository and wherein said translated data file is transferred from said staging database to said response repository and retained at the response repository in response to said request.

Claims 24-40 (canceled).

Claim 41. (original) A program storage device according to claim 40 wherein said translated data file is retained at said response repository for a predetermined time period.

Claim 42. (original) A program storage device according to claim 41 wherein said translated data file is accessible from said response repository by any authorized requester.

Claims 43-45 (canceled).

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